

ABSOLUTE RATING: Below Average
IMPROVEMENT RATING: Excellent

Number of high schools with students similar to ours: 31. The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from unsatisfactory to good. For the improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to excellent.
(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)

RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
2001	Below Average	Excellent
2002		
2003		
2004		

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our School			Schools With Students Like Ours		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
• Passed all 3 subtests	47.3	45.7	47.2	55.3	60.7	60.5
• Passed 2 subtests	27.0	29.1	26.7	21.7	19.2	20.3
• Passed 1 subtest	14.8	15.5	16.0	13.5	12.9	11.5
• Passed no subtests	10.9	9.8	10.1	9.5	7.3	7.7

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS	Our School	Schools With Students Like Ours
% of seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions	12.4%	13.8%
% of seniors who met the SAT requirement	13.1%	14.5%
% of seniors who met the grade point average	47.1%	41.9%

Beginning in 2003, the graduation rate for each high school will be included in the school rating.

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Seniors		
	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2001	Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships	Graduation Rate
All students	88.0%	12.4%	N/A until 2003
Students with disabilities other than speech	64.0%	0.0%	
Students without disabilities	89.9%	13.7%	
Gender			
Male	84.9%	12.8%	
Female	90.9%	12.1%	
Ethnic Group			
African American	86.5%	10.7%	
Hispanic	100.0%	0.0%	
White	93.8%	25.0%	
Other	100.0%	0.0%	
Lunch Status			
Free/reduced-price lunch	86.9%	7.1%	
Pay for lunch	89.0%	14.8%	

STUDENTS IN CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Mastering core competencies	75.1%
Completers placed	98.5%
Eligible students enrolled	66.7%

SCHOOL PROFILE

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
SCHOOL				
• Dollars spent per student	\$5,501	N/A	\$5,668	\$5,668
• Prime instructional time	94.6%	Up from 90.0%	89.5%	90.1%
• Student-teacher ratio	26.2 to 1	N/A	24.6 to 1	25.1 to 1
STUDENTS (n=1,647)				
• Advanced Placement/ Int'l Baccalaureate Program Exam Success Ratio	38.9%	N/A	23.5%	40.0%
• Attendance rate	99.2%	Up from 95.5%	94.8%	95.3%
• Retention rate	13.5%	Up from 11.7%	11.9%	10.0%
TEACHERS (n=116)				
• Professional Development days per teacher	6.3 Days	Down from 6.9	7.2 Days	7.5 Days
• Attendance rate	96.0%	Up from 95.5%	95.6%	95.7%
• Teachers with advanced degrees	40.5%	Down from 45.9%	44.8%	49.4%
• Continuing contract teachers	69.8%	Down from 70.6%	80.4%	81.0%
• Teachers with out-of-field permits	7.8%	Up from 0.8%	4.1%	3.0%
• Teachers returning from the previous school year	74.1%	Down from 77.3%	84.8%	85.2%
• Average teacher salary	\$36,282	Up 4.3%	\$37,133	\$38,125

SCHOOL FACTS

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median High School
SCHOOL				
• Dropout rate	3.6%	Up from 2.8%	3.6%	2.9%
• Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries	57.1%	N/A	55.9%	56.4%
• Principal's years at the school	11.0	N/A	4.0	3.0
• Percent of parents attending conferences	98.3%	N/A	53.4%	60.1%
• Opportunities in the arts	Good	N/A	Excellent	Excellent
STUDENTS				
• Older than usual for grade	10.8%	Down from 12.6%	11.2%	10.1%
• Suspended or expelled	33	N/A	34	29
• Gifted and talented	10.9%	Up from 10.4%	6.1%	7.4%
• With disabilities other than speech	13.4%	Up from 11.4%	11.7%	10.7%
• Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	10.6%	N/A	6.7%	4.5%
• Enrollment in career and technology center courses	1098	N/A	374	350
• Career students participating in work-based experiences	42.0%	N/A	22.5%	23.1%



PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

During the 2000-01 school year, Lower Richland High School provided a variety of academic programs and extracurricular activities to the approximately 1650 students of the Lower Richland community in Richland County.

Our BSAP Exit Exam test scores indicated a need to increase student mastery of basic skills standards throughout the curriculum. As an additional focus on reading, all students and staff read The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman. Also, teachers participated in staff development related to the implementation of South Carolina Curriculum Standards and the use of technology in their classrooms.

Lower Richland provided students with opportunities to increase their SAT scores. Students attended before and after school tutorial sessions taught by certified math and English teachers and Kaplan SAT preparation courses that were taught on campus. These efforts have resulted in an increase in SAT scores and Life Scholars. Students were recognized as National Merit Semifinalists, National Achievement Finalists, National Achievement Semifinalists, and National Achievement Outstanding Participants.

One of the barriers to the academic success of students is their weaknesses in math and English. Because Lower Richland is on the 4X4 block schedule, the school offered 9th grade students who scored Below Basic on PACT, English I, Algebra I, and Algebra for the Technologies courses for the entire year. These courses were designed to give students a firm foundation in these areas.

The arts program at Lower Richland has been successful during the 2000-01 school year. The band consistently has earned excellent and superior ratings in competitions. Two art students have been recognized nationally. A drama student has been selected to attend the Governor's School for the Arts.

We recognize that parents are a key component to school success. Many of our parents participate in the PTSA, SIC, band and athletic booster clubs. We have a core group of parent volunteers but are making plans to increase this number.

Efforts are being made to add more AP courses, recruit and train more AP teachers and identify more students for these courses.

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Percent	Teachers	Students	Parents
Satisfied with learning environment	69.1	45.3	(Avail. 2002)
Satisfied with social and physical environment	78.4	62.5	
Satisfied with home-school relations	56.3	72.4	

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

4001013

Lower Richland High
2615 Lower Richland Boulevard
Hopkins, SC 29061

Grades 9-12 High School

Enrollment: 1,647 Students

Principal

Mr. Alton Drennon 803-695-3000

Superintendent

Dr. Ronald L. Epps 803-733-6041

Board Chair

Vince Ford 803-733-6061



THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School
Report Card

2001

School Grade:
Good



South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at
www.myscschools.com